



The Rivers

We encourage you to do your own research as you know best what you and your group will like, but here are some short notes about nearby rivers. Notes are from various websites.

Clearwater River

Rec Base Notes -

Distance from Cabin: 10 minutes west and then south towards Calgary on the Forestry Trunk Road (FTR), gravel, also just east of the cabin to the next access point south, but this often has crown campers on it. Anywhere else east and then north before it joins the North Sask at Rocky Mountain House.

"The Clearwater River in Alberta is a destination for fishing Walleye, Northern Pike, and Brown Trout, though accessing the best fishing spots requires significant hiking and bushwhacking due to the challenging terrain. This river is not known for producing large numbers of fish but offers a solitary and challenging experience. Anglers should be aware of the threatened status of Bull Trout in the river, which carries a zero possession limit and must be released immediately upon capture."

Fishing Opportunities

- Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, and Brown Trout are the most sought-after species in the Clearwater River.
- Experience: The river provides a challenging and solitary fishing experience, a draw for anglers who appreciate solitude and the difficulty of access rather than sheer numbers of fish.

Access & Terrain

- Difficult Access: Reaching the prime fishing locations on the Clearwater River often involves extensive hiking and bushwhacking, as access is not easy.
- Challenging River: The river features big brown boulders and a tough river valley, adding to the challenge of fishing.

Important Regulations

- Bull Trout: Bull Trout are a threatened species in Alberta, and there is a zero possession limit. Anglers must release any Bull Trout they catch immediately.

Tips for Anglers

- Patience: Fishing on the Clearwater is not a "numbers" river, so patience is key.
- Observe Fish: Anglers may see fish rise to the surface, indicating an opportunity to try different fly patterns, like beetles or spinners.

North Raven River -

Rec Base Notes - check regulations

"The North Raven River is a popular Alberta destination for anglers, especially for brown trout and brook trout, with stocked brown trout also being a significant draw. As a tributary of the Red Deer River system, it is renowned for its world-class brown trout fishing, with participation from landowners to improve the river's riparian habitat through the Alberta Conservation Association's program."

Prairie Creek

Rec Base Notes - 27 minutes (east / north / west)

Check out this hyped up blog:

https://trickflies.ca/blogs/news/albertas-top-fly-fishing-streams-prairie-creek?srltid=AfmBOooXmHr58EODqIbi0JpkyHPgVeNdHiUbdZ1JH4WowNJ6pLZ_My6v

Ram River -

Rec Base Notes - north towards Ram Falls

"The Ram River in Alberta is a premier fly fishing destination, particularly in its canyon sections, for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Rainbow Trout. The North Ram is more accessible but gets more pressure, while the South Ram in the canyon is known for larger fish and is a long-time favorite spot. Anglers should be aware of potential spring runoff and heavy summer rains that can affect river conditions, and note that Bull Trout are catch-and-release only due to being a threatened species."

Fishing for Cutthroat Trout

South Ram River: This is a classic freestone river and a favored spot for fly fishing.

North Ram River: More accessible and receives more angling attention, it's a great spot to find larger cutthroats.

Tributaries: Creeks like Joyce and Cripple Creek are good for catching smaller, more numerous cutthroat trout.

Key Considerations

Timing: While fly fishing can be done year-round, the best fishing for trout in this region typically runs from July to September, following the spring runoff.

River Conditions: The river is susceptible to heavy rains, especially in June, which can cause the water to become turbid.

Bull Trout: This is a threatened species in Alberta, with a zero possession limit, meaning any Bull Trout caught must be immediately released.

Regulations: You must have a valid Alberta Sportfishing Licence to fish in the province, with exceptions for youth under 16 and seniors 65 and over.

Fishing the River

Find Holdouts: Look for fish in areas with deep slots, around log piles, and in the transition zones between gravel and hard rock shelves.

Effective Flies: Dry flies like high-floating attractors, Stimulators, Trudes, and Chernobyl Ants work well, as do nymphs.

Gear: A rod in the 7-8.5 foot range, matched to a #3-5 weight line, is recommended for this river.

Swan Creek -

Rec Base Notes - open April to August

"Swan Creek, Alberta, is a regulated ES2-Rivers zone with specific fishing regulations including a seasonal opening from April 1 to August 31, a bait ban, and rules for species like mountain whitefish (5 over 30 cm) and trout (2 total). It is connected to Swan Lake, known for lake trout and northern pike, with Swan Creek also supporting these fish. To fish Swan Creek, consult the current Alberta Fishing Regulations, as these are subject to change."

Tay River -

Rec Base Notes - closed Oct 1

"From Caroline AB going straight to highway 591 then turn right going to Alford Lake then follow the road at about 2 mins you reached the Tay lake marker, then walk follow the ATV trail, about 10mins then you reached the lake - <http://www.ifishalberta.com/lakeFeedback.php?id=460>"